



# PROGRAMME 2012



# GARETH L. POWELL

**BRISTOLCON 2012 GUEST OF HONOUR**



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# WELCOME TO BRISTOLCON 2012!

Hello!

I'm writing this with just under a month to go until the day of BristolCon itself, and already it looks like we're on for a record turnout! This is our fourth year, and none of it would be possible without YOU. Yes, you, juggling your cup of coffee and your goodie bag, trying to decide between two fabulous panels streams and the Dealer room, while at the same time squeezing in a view of the art show and brushing up your brain for the quiz. How will you fit it all in?

I've been asked to explain something about why BristolCon, and the BristolCon foundation, does what it does. BristolCon was initially conceived as something fun to do on a wet October afternoon, and expanded to become a party for around 200 of our nearest and dearest. And then we thought, "hey, we can do something useful with this!" So the BristolCon Foundation was born.

Our aim is :

"To encourage the creation and enjoyment of Speculative fiction, in all its forms, with a focus on the West Country and South Wales."

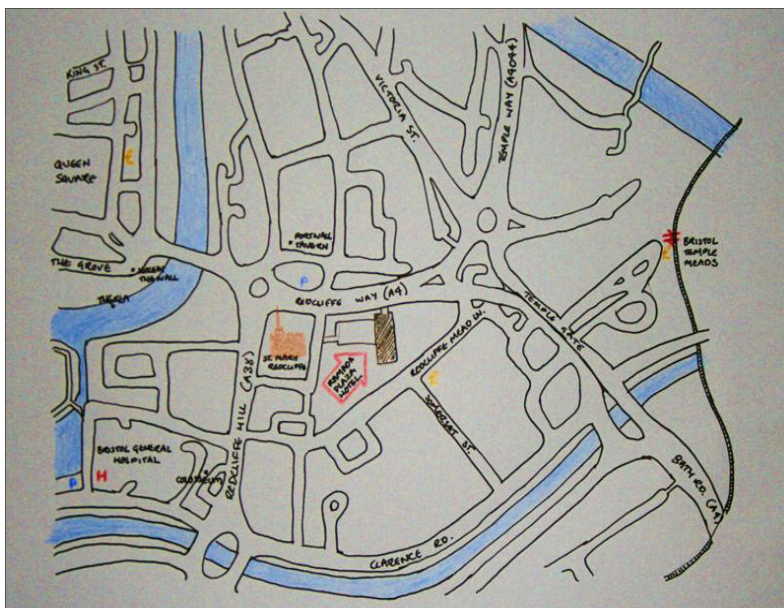
BristolCon is a big part of that, but with our new mission statement, it means any profits we make from Bristolcon can be used to support and encourage local writers, comic artists, reading groups, etc, by putting on events and bringing in guest speakers from outside the city. It's all still quite new, but there will be exciting times ahead!

And there are exciting times in store for you today, thanks to the efforts of the brilliant BristolCon Committee and their helpers, our Guests of Honour Gareth L Powell, John Meaney and Anne Sudworth (who also supplied the cover art for this here booklet). And much love to our Ghost of Honour, the late great Colin Harvey. Thanks to all our panelists, artists and dealers, and our members, who fill the seats and ask the questions. Thank you all for coming. Have a brilliant day.

Best Wishes,  
**Jo Hall (BristolCon Chair)**

# DIRECTIONS AND PRACTICALITIES

The Ramada Bristol City (aka the Ramada Jarvis) is on Redcliffe Way, next to the historic St Mary Redcliffe Church, and is a ten minute walk from Temple Meads Station in one direction, and Bristol town centre in the other. The Number 76 bus runs from the centre right past the hotel.



**DRIVING:** The hotel postcode is BS1 6NJ and driving directions are on-line at <http://www.ramada-bristol.co.uk/ramada-bristol-directions.htm>.

**Parking at the hotel is free for all con attendees. If the hotel car park fills up,** there is a pay and display car park for 170 cars opposite St Mary Redcliffe, just across the road from the hotel.

**EATING:** Opposite the hotel, the Portwall Tavern does a small range of pub grub, pizzas etc. Two doors down is Byzantium, a large Mediterranean restaurant. Follow Redcliffe Way past St Mary Redcliffe and over the bridge (5 minutes walk) and you come to the Grove, home of the upmarket Severn Shed and River Station restaurants, and the more homely (but often crowded) Hole in the Wall tavern. But for real bargain dining we recommend the all-day breakfasts served at the Colosseum, next to the Mercure Hotel on Redcliffe Hill. It won't win any glamour prizes, but it's cheap and very cheerful.

**CASHPOINTS:** Nearby cashpoints are situated behind the hotel, on the corner of Redcliffe Mead Lane and Somerset Street (RBS), and a little further along Somerset St (Lloyds). There is a cashpoint at Temple Meads station, but it is **inside** the barriers.

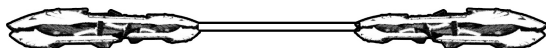
## **'A RECKLESS MAGICK' BOOK LAUNCH**

Kat's back for her third adventure, and as usual, disaster is following in her wake... When the Stephenson family travel to a grand country house in Devon for her sister Angeline's wedding, Kat is stalked by a dangerous magical enemy and finds everything she thought she knew about her late mother called into question. With smugglers, sabotage, tangled romance and plenty of magical activity at work, it's down to Kat to protect her family and her country from impending ruin.

Join Stephanie Burgis to celebrate the release of the third and final instalment in the adventures of Kat Stephenson, the teenage heroine of what is (now!) one of the most compelling and entertaining YA trilogies around.

Stephanie will read from the novel and there will be a chance for everyone to talk to her about this and her other books. Copies of the novel will be available for purchase, and Stephanie will sign them on request. There are rumours of wine and nibbles, too!

*A Reckless Magick* is out now from Templar Books. You can find out more at [www.stephanieburgis.com](http://www.stephanieburgis.com) or <http://www.templarco.co.uk>



## **'COLINTHOLOGY' BOOK LAUNCH**

At BristolCon 12 we will be launching *Colinthology*, an anthology of short stories inspired by, and dedicated to the memory of, our friend Colin. We've put together a bunch of stories which will make you laugh, or leave you feeling uplifted, that can be enjoyed over a lazy pint. Many of Colin's friends contributed to the book, and some of them will be reading extracts from their stories during our Ghost of Honour slot. The anthology will be able to buy as an ebook both during BristolCon (on CD) and afterwards from the Wizards Tower website. None of the contributors or editors have been paid for this project, and all money raised from sales of the book will go to Above and Beyond, the charity Colin worked for. The book costs a mere £2.99, so please buy a copy or three!

# PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

	Programme 1	Programme 2	Kaffeklatsch
09:50	Welcome - Jo Hall	Welcome - Cheryl Morgan	
10:00	Colonising the Solar System  Many recent science fiction books, including Blue Remembered Earth by Al Reynolds, and The Quiet War by Paul McAuley, are set in a solar system colonized by mankind. What would it take to make this happen? Could we really adapt to live on the Moon or Mars? Will space exploration ever be economic?	The Influence of SF on Science & Technology  Hugo Gernsback had a plan. By telling thrilling stories about science he would teach boys and girls to think scientifically, and encourage them to become scientists when they grew up. Did it work? Do authors still try to teach? Are there developments that would not have come about without science fiction?	
10:50	Reading by Aliette de Bodard	Reading by Rosie Oliver	
11:00	Guest of Honour John Meaney, interviewed by Juliet E. McKenna	Writing Together - Collaborative Creativity  Collaborations – how do you make two heads work better than one? And if you're both playing in the same sandpit, who owns the bucket and spade?	Gareth L. Powell
11:50	Reading by Juliet E. McKenna		
12:00	Netiquette for Writers - How not to make a twit of yourself online  In this age of instant communication, it's easier to interact with your readers than ever before. But communicating online is fraught with its own problems. The panel discuss how not to be "That Guy", what happens when online talk goes bad, and why you should never feed the Trolls.	Toilets in Space - Practicalities in a fantastic universe  Everything we do on 21st century Earth, SF writers might have to do in zero-gravity. That might include eating, pooping, and the horizontal space-tango. If you're going to include a level of reality in your fantastic fiction, these might be issues you have to address. So how would you go about using a space toilet?	Aliette de Bodard

	<b>Programme 1</b>	<b>Programme 2</b>	<b>Kaffeklatsch</b>
12:50	Reading by Guy Haley	Reading by Emma Newman	
13:00	Guest of Honour Anne Sudworth, interviewed by Ian Whates	The stress of space travel on family relationships  Returning to Earth to find yourself younger than your own grand-children isn't just a headache for the greetings-card industry. The panel looks at depictions of the family and wonders, are all families in SF fiction dysfunctional?	John Meaney
13:50	-closed for setup-	Reading by Fran Jacobs	
14:00	Book launch: <i>A Reckless Magick</i> by Stephanie Burgis.  Stephanie reads from the third book of the unladylike adventures of the 'incorrigible' Kat Stephenson. Wine and nibbles!	-break-	-break-
14:30	Author and Artist signings		
14:50	-break-	-break-	-break-
15:00	Women in Sensible Armour  Like the Girl in the Negligee, framed in a gun sight in 50's detective novels, the inhumanly developed woman in Not Enough Armour has been an icon for SF. Where are the exceptions? After 100 years of female emancipation is it time to move on and dress these women in proper armour?	Battle of the Books Part Two - Read Harder  Game show: My Ender's Game beats your Old Man's War. Panellists bring their favourite stories to the table for judgement by fellow panellists and the audience. Only the best will win. This one could end in bloodshed, or at least a severe case of writer's cramp...	Jaine Fenn
15:50	Reading by Danie Ware	Reading by Tim Maughan	



Unfortunately we were unable to finalise panelist names before going to press. Please refer to the 'Programme' sheet in your goody bag for panelist details, and to the programme room schedules for up-to-the-minute information.

Programme 1		Programme 2	Kaffeklatsch
16:00	Guest of Honour Gareth L. Powell, interviewed by Kim Lakin-Smith	Apocalypses - how many ways can we destroy the planet?	Rosie Oliver
		As life becomes ever more interdependent and science gets the fuzzy end of the lollypop, can we scare ourselves sensible by showing how many ways can we go down, or shall we sanitize with the absurd?	
16:50	Reading by Gareth L. Powell	Reading by Leigh Kennedy	
17:00	Art techniques in a digital age	Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your stories: farming your family and friends for inspiration	YA with Moira Young & Phillip Reeve
	Art, it used to be all about pencils, paints and paper. Now we have a vast range of digital tools that we can use, and hardware devices to support them. What tools do professional artists use? Top artists discuss their experiences and favorite techniques.	Anyone who knows a writer runs the risk of ending up in a book. It's common to farm your family and friends for inspiration, but how do you go about it without it ending up in divorce and lawyers and shot-guns at dawn?	
17:50	Reading by Jonathan L. Howard	Reading by Jaine Fenn	
18:00	Ghost of Honour Colin Harvey is remembered by Marc Gascoigne and friends.	The evolution and future of steampunk	Leigh Kennedy
	Book Launch: Colinthology: The Colin Harvey Memorial Anthology	A lot of steampunk fans don't read in the genre, preferring the costuming aspect of it, and the community has come under accusations of celebrating Colonialism and excluding ethnic minorities. Where can it go in the future? Can it throw off the shackles of Victoriana, or is the genre destined to rust and stagnate, nothing more than a flash in the shiny brass pan?	
	Screening of the short film 'Chameleon'		



**Programme 1**

18:50 Reading by Emma Pass

19:00 YA Fiction: Just for Girls?

YA is a thriving genre, but it seems to be more of a genre for girls. Is there a gender imbalance in YA, and if there is, how do we address it? How do we get boys reading?

**Programme 2**

Reading by Anne Lyle

Nano or Nono - How to survive a writing challenge

Writing challenges like Nano-WriMo are becoming more and more popular. But how do you approach the daunting task of writing a novel in a month? And if you finish, should you let it see the cold light of day? Writing challenges can give you a kick up the backside to get writing, but is trying to push yourself to write a novel in a month really a good idea?

**Kaffeklatsch**

Guy Haley

19:50 Reading by Foz Meadows

Reading by Ben Jeapes

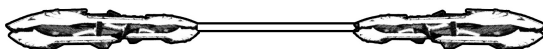
- In the bar -

12:00 The bar will start serving

20:00 Closing ceremony - Guest of Honour presentations, results of the silent auctions and launch of BristolCon 2013

20:15 BristolCon is delighted to welcome back the dulcet tones and sharp tongue of singer/songwriter Talis Kimberley. If you like smart folk music with a satirical, political edge, you won't want to miss her set, which has become an annual highlight of the Convention.

21:15 Nick Walters returns with the semi-legendary BristolCon Quiz. Harder than diamonds, tougher than steel, more mind-crushing than Vagon poetry. It has been known to leave even the most hardcore SF nerds gibbering in the corner. Come along if you fancy your chances! Prizes, and credibility, are at stake!



The BristolCon committee are determined to ensure that BristolCon provides a safe and inclusive environment. We pride ourselves on the friendly and respectful atmosphere of the convention. We therefore ask everyone to conduct themselves appropriately, extending courtesy and co-operation to all members. Be excellent to one another.

In the event that any member, or anyone else attending or working on the convention, does not observe these principles, or behaves so as to detract from the atmosphere of the convention, the committee will take appropriate action.

## GUESTS OF HONOUR



**John Meaney** was born in London and grew up in Slough, and has since lived in Birmingham, Wales, Hampshire and Kent. He was a science fiction fan from an early age, and is both old and lucky enough to have watched the first Dr. Who when it was broadcast in 1963.

He has a degree in Physics and Computer Science, and has worked as a software engineer, and a trainer of software engineers and business analysts.

He took up judo at 15, then kung fu, and now holds a black belt in shotokan karate. He has a dojo in his back garden and still trains seriously - you may have seen him busting a few moves with Juliet McKenna at BristolCon in 2010!

Having sold his first short story to Interzone in 1992, he now takes writing as seriously as martial arts, and is no longer confined to writing on the commuter train. He has published many novels including the Ragnarok trilogy and the Nulapeiron sequence. Two of his novels, *To Hold Infinity* and *Paradox*, have been shortlisted for the BSFA Best Novel award.



**Gareth L. Powell** was born and brought up in the West of England, and studied English Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Glamorgan. Now living in Bristol, he has since given guest lectures on creative writing at Bath Spa University, and has written for publications including 2000AD and the Bristol Review of Books.

Gareth is the author of the novels *The Recollection* and *Silversands* and the short story collection *The Last Reef*. His next novel, *Ack-Ack Macaque*, is due out in January, and draws its inspiration from his short story of the same name, which Interzone readers voted as their favourite short story of 2007.

As well as appearing regularly in Interzone and other magazines, Gareth's short fiction has featured in a number of recent anthologies, including Ghost of Honour Colin Harvey's Future Bristol and Dark Spires.

When asked why he writes science fiction, Gareth replies: "I guess I've always been fascinated by stars and starships. As the Only Ones sang on their 1977 punk masterpiece, Another Girl, Another Planet: "Space travel's in my blood, and there ain't nothing I can do about it."

**Anne Sudworth** is an English artist, internationally known for her magical trees and haunting moonlit landscapes. She has been drawing and painting since early childhood and started her career as a professional artist in 1993 when she presented her first exhibition “Visions and Views”. Many more exhibitions have followed, including the highly successful “Dreams and Whispers” show and “The Dark Side”. Her work can now be found in many collections around the world.



In 2000 the first book on her work was published called “Enchanted World; the art of Anne Sudworth”, now in its fourth print run. In 2007 a second book on her work was published called “Gothic Fantasies; the Paintings of Anne Sudworth”.

She is self-taught, always preferring to explore her own ideas, and has experimented with many different media including sculpture, oil, watercolour, clay and pen and ink. She now works mostly with pastel and charcoal.

Sudworth says of her art “Much of my work contains overtones of magic and ancient beliefs. I like to explore the idea that the earth has a darker, lesser known side, perhaps one of which our ancestors were more aware.”

**Colin Harvey** was born in Cornwall in 1960. He worked on a kibbutz and in a night shelter in the Midlands before joining Unilever. Colin worked for Unilever for over 20 years, including launching Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream in Iceland.



Colin became a freelance writer in 2007. He reviewed for Strange Horizons for six years, and served on the Management Committee of the Speculative Literature Foundation for five, during which time he co-judged the Travel Research Grant and the Older Writers Grant.

His short stories appeared in Albedo One, Gothic.net, Song of the Siren and Speculations, as well as several original anthologies. His novels are all available on Amazon.

Colin’s anthology Killers was nominated for the Black Quill Award and the British Fantasy Award.

Colin was instrumental in the founding of BristolCon and was a source of constant encouragement and inspiration to the speculative literature community in the South West. He died in 2011, but will always be at BristolCon in spirit.

# IN THE ART ROOM...

Welcome to the best Art Show west of Brighton!

It's a founding principle of BristolCon that our art is as important as our writing. This year we have a magnificent selection of art, with an excellent diversity of styles. We have fine art, CGI, steampunk devices, comics and Hollywood movie backdrops. Step through our door and have your mind blown away!

This year we are of course thrilled to be presenting original artworks by our Guest of Honour Anne Sudworth, as well as superb works from all our attending artists.



Artist Simon Breeze will be drawing a comic book page throughout the day based on a story suggested by local children... pop in regularly to see the design progress from blank page to finished article.

Between 14:00 and 14:45 artist James Ledger will be giving a demonstration of his science fiction cityscape art and answering questions about how they are drawn using Photoshop.

It's all on the screensaver. Because we artists have more art than we can possibly bring to a show, we've set up

a slideshow to showcase the pictures we didn't manage to bring along.

All the pieces in the art room are for sale. In addition, we have a table selling prints, postcards and art books, and the artists will be on hand throughout the day to talk about their work.

As if that wasn't enough... if you find you have a spare moment to sit down and a chat, visit artist Jennie Gyllblad in the foyer, where she will be doing five minute portraits.

And... There might be an unscheduled book launch, if the books arrive!

## ATTENDING ARTISTS

Anne Sudworth  
Jim Burns  
Andy Bigwood  
Simon Gurr  
Simon Breeze  
Jennie Gyllblad  
Copper Odyssey (Sam Goddard & Mike Henderson)  
James Ledger  
Steve Upham  
Nicki Andrews  
Dan Chernett



## ATTENDING DEALERS

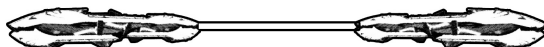
Ben Galley (author)  
Roundstone Framing (framing & memorabilia)  
Fran Jacobs (author)  
David Botham  
Gareth Wiles (author)  
Tom Brown (comics)  
Yvonne Meaney (crafts)  
Gunnar Roxen (author)  
Hellbound Media (publisher)  
Murky Depths (publisher)  
Forbidden Planet (bookstore)  
Oxfam (second hand books)  
Corvus Press (comics)  
Solaris (publisher)  
James Snelling





# BRISTOLCON 2013

BristolCon 2013 will take place on October 26th, 2013, provisionally once more at the Ramada. We already have some fabulous guests of honor lined up, and we will be announcing them at the end of this years convention. If you want to sign up today, memberships are only £15 and can be purchased at the committee desk in the reception area. We hope you'll come back and join us in celebrating our fifth year!

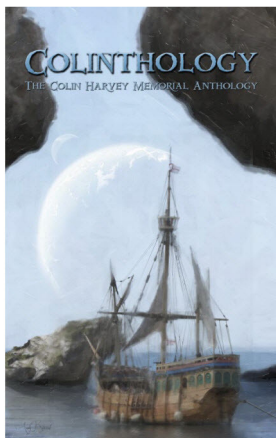


## BRISTOLCON THANKS...

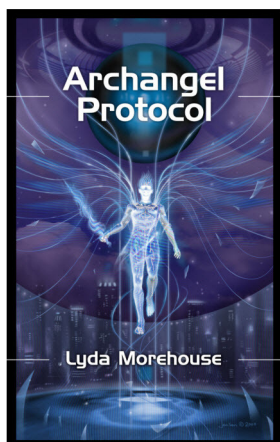
- △ The Committee – Heather Ashley, Andy Bigwood, Mark Robinson, Sam Pearson, Cheryl Morgan, MEG, Roz Clarke, Claire Carter and new recruits Dolly Garland and Paul Wiseall,
- △ All our panelists, the dealers and artists who are such an important part of any con, and of course our fabulous Guests of Honour,
- △ The staff here at the Ramada Bristol City hotel,
- △ Del Lakin-Smith for technical support, our gofers, and the various friends and family members helping in too many ways to enumerate here,
- △ Forbidden Planet for providing the goodie bags, and Solaris, Geoff Nelder, Phil Norris, Terry Martin at Murky Depths and Steven Breamer for helping to fill them with goodies!
- △ Alan and Collette for the badges,
- △ Our tireless Chair, knower of All Things, smoother of ruffled feathers and all around WonderGirl, Joanne Hall.

# Wizard's Tower Press

**Just released - the first volume of  
Juliet E. McKenna's legendary  
Tales of Einarinn**



**Launching Today  
Colinthology - the Colin Harvey  
Memorial Anthology**



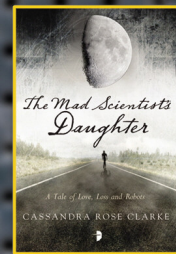
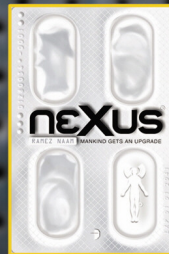
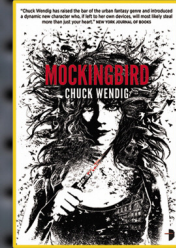
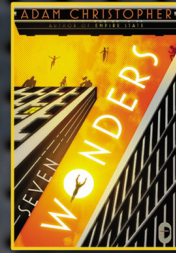
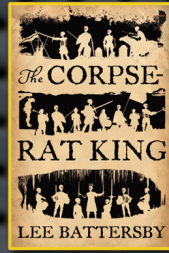
**Coming Soon  
The AngeLINK series by  
Lyda Morehouse**

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